

The Independent.

OSKALOOSA, KANSAS.

J. W. ROBERTS, Editor.

Saturday, December 27, 1862.

Society in Missouri.

One of the evil effects of slavery is visible on the very face of society where it prevails. With the exception of a very few, who have the leisure to polish the outside, the society in Slave States is not cultivated and refined as it is in the Free States, where schools are accessible to all. The Census shows this most conclusively. But it does more than this. Upon those who have the means of education it has a very perceptible effect, which even the casual observer cannot fail to notice.

Perhaps the idea we wish to convey will be best understood by giving a little scrap of personal experience.

As we were recently passing through Missouri on the cars, a couple of well-dressed and rather intelligent looking young ladies came aboard at one of the stations. Their general appearance and the deference shown them by acquaintances, indicated unmistakably that they passed in the first circles of society about their homes; and possessing a considerable share of good looks, they were evidently popular with the young gentlemen of their acquaintance, several of whom were on the cars. Whether the length and heft of the lady's purse had anything to do with the smiles of the young men, this deponent saith not; but we think the personal attractions of the ladies were the "moving cause" for the attentions paid to them by the other sex.

Occupying a seat in close proximity to the ladies, we became quietly interested in the group of which they were the center. At first the impression produced was favorable and pleasing. But how we were startled presently by hearing one of the ladies say:

"O Lord, no."

And presently the other exclaimed:

"O Lordie!"

And such remarks and exclamations were interspersed quite plentifully through their conversation.

To say that this sudden development shocked our sensibilities, but partially conveys an idea of the sensations awakened in the mind. It was like a dash of cold water on the system in a warm summer day; and instinctively we felt a kind of repulsion almost as sensibly as though we had been smitten by a blow.

Reflections something like these passed through our mind:

"How can it be possible for apparently educated and refined persons to act and speak thus? What must be the condition of society where such language is tolerated and those who use it courted and flattered?"

And it was but natural that the mind should run out in its investigations for an explanation of this strange development.

We were unable to find a solution of the problem, except in the influence which slavery has upon communities and society at large where it exists. We had traveled in most of the Free States, but had never, except among the most unrefined, heard language used similar to that we have quoted. Indeed, we feel safe in saying that such language would not be tolerated for a moment in any good society in the Free States.

Whether it resulted in the instance we have recorded from association with slaves, or grew out of the barbarizing nature of the institution in general, we are not prepared to say; but the fact was indisputable—the lesson it taught was one for serious and melancholy contemplation.

It is an un-doubted fact that the tendencies of society in general where slavery exists is towards barbarism. No one who will travel through the Free States and the Slave States with his eyes and ears open can mistake this fact.

True, there are a few of the aristocratic families in the Slave States, who live in considerable splendor and refinement; but the great mass of the people are very far below the general mass in the Free States. And it is a truth, also, that the refinement of the wealthy is too often superficial. It is all polish and no heart.

Besides, the refined gentleman of the drawing-room and parlor of social life, is too frequently the coarse libertine under other circumstances. No one who has seen the inside of Southern society will attempt to deny this. The means of sensual gratification are all ways present where helpless slaves are in bondage, body and soul, to the dominant race; and hence the result of which we speak.

Now this kind of society—or the sys-

tem that perpetuates it—ought not to exist; and least of all ought it to receive countenance from civilized and Christian people. Let it be done away. God forbid it should ever be extended.

Emancipation.

As our pen traces the word, the President is performing the act. It is the New Year's Day of the world, and more than that to the poor slave—it is to him a New Life.

The President is reported to have said that "he could not if he would, and would not if he could" withhold the proclamation. That sounds like him. It is the voice of a man who has risen to the lofty position of a firm resolve to do right. God bless him, and bless the words he shall utter, and the poor oppressed ones to whom they shall go forth as the sound of jubilee, as the voice of hope, and the beginning of manhood.

It is seldom Heaven gives to one man the privilege of becoming immortal by such direct means. Abraham Lincoln will live forever in the memory of man.

There is no telling the blessings that will flow from emancipation. The prospect is limitless. It lifts the incubus from this otherwise happy land—that dire load which has been sinking the country down, until this accursed rebellion has been oiled out of the pressure and sent its slime and fetid breath over the fair plains of the sunny climes where the curse has rested as a blight and mildew more deadly than that of the Upas of the east.

The year 1863 will become memorable in the annals of time, as is that of 1776.

We know it is said that the proclamation will be only so many idle words; but we know, also, that this is an incorrect view of the matter. The rebels do not so regard it. Jeff. Davis issues retaliatory orders, and the whole of Rebeldom is alarmed.

It is vain to believe that the slaves are in ignorance of the forthcoming word of LIBERTY. They know it well. They have known it from the beginning; and it will not find them unprepared.

They have been waiting the hour of deliverance with expectation on tip-toe; and through all the South there are signs which will follow.

We do not apprehend that there will be the horrible condition of things which some have predicted. We think that there will be no rapine and murder, unless the slaveholders and not the slaves inaugurate such a state of affairs. The slaves, if not punished on suspicion by their masters and overseers, will quietly await the coming of our armies. But if the owners commence the work of persecution by whipping or shooting slaves they may suspect of a desire for freedom, there is no telling what will be the sad result.

Should the slaves, raised up on expectation, be crowded down more oppressively than before, as is too often the case, there will, in all human probability, be scenes of terror and crime from the contemplation of which the mind turns with sadness.

We expect quiet conduct on the part of the slaves; but we do not believe they will be kept down by force on the part of their masters. May all work together for good.

Our Book &c.

BIBLE SERVITUDE Re-Examined; with Special Reference to Pro-Slavery Interpretations and Infidel Objections. By Rev. RUFUS HATCH, A. M. Applegate & Co., Cincinnati.

This is the title of a work recently issued from the press in which the Bible teachings on the subject of slavery are very fully and very ably examined. The author enters fully into the merits of the question, takes up the various passages relating to the servitude of the Patriarchs, the Jews, and that referred to in the New Testament. His expositions are clear, candid and conclusive, and when he is through there is nothing left of "Bible Slavery," as there was nothing of it before he commenced. The fog with which infidelity and pro-slaveryism (in this respect practically one, working together as they do) have attempted to enshroud the Word of God is blown away, and when the naked truth stands out, just as God gave it to Moses and the other inspired writers, there is not the smallest point upon which to hang chattel slavery; but for it remains the statute, unshorn of its strength, with the sword of justice stretched over its guilty victim: "He that stealeth a man, or selleth him, or if he be found in his hands, he shall surely be put to death." This is God's enactment on the subject of chattel or merchantable slavery as it exists in this country. Send \$1 to the publishers, Messrs. Applegate & Co., 43 Main street, Cincinnati, O., and a copy of the book will be forwarded by mail, post-paid.

THE SIEGE OF RICHMOND: A Narrative of the Military Operations of Major-General Geo. B. McClellan During

the months of May and June, 1862, by JOHN COOK, Special Correspondent of the Philadelphia Press with the Army of the Potomac. Applegate & Co. Western Publishers.

This title gives as good an idea of the work as can well be presented to the reader short of a perusal of the book. The writer—and he is one of the best among the host of "Army Correspondents"—enters upon the record from the beginning—gives the history of the organization of the "Army of the Potomac," (almost become a by-word of reproach, and yet composed of splendid soldiers, who fight with the best, but who have been badly commanded) follows it through its marches and encampments; its passage to the Peninsula; and paints vividly the battle of Fair Oaks, the Siege of Richmond, the Incidents attending it, and the Retreat.

A friend of McClellan, the writer eulogizes that general, but endeavors to give a faithful record of the events he chronicles. It is hardly necessary for us to say the book is replete with the deepest interest. The reader can hardly consent to lay the volume aside, after commencing its perusal, until the last page has been scanned. Some glimpses of Rebeldom are given that are rich in humor and reveal things that are not very complimentary to the "chivalry." The panic of the soldiers is vividly described; and while the vivid painting of the battle-scene will thrill the reader; the genial spice which characterizes other portions of the narration will not fail to win attention or provoke a smile. Send for a copy.

MR. DEMOREST'S MIRROR OF FASHION is a quarterly publication, issued on the 15th of September, November, March and May. The winter number, now ready, contains ELEGANT and DOUBLE MAMOTH CLOAK PLATE, containing 21 FIGURES, comprising the latest designs, and presenting the largest and most superb plate of cloaks ever published in this country; a Colored Steel Plate of 9 figures, with all the new designs of Costume; "full and valuable information on every article of dress for ladies and children, including a description of Furs and their price," with other interesting features of interest. Patterns of all kinds, and for all parts of apparel. Three full sized patterns accompany it. The N. Y. Tribune, Independent, Home Journal and World speak most highly of it, and the Times says it is universally conceded to be the most brilliant, as it is the most useful and practical Magazine now published. The illustrations are numerous, and embrace every department, and the patterns alone are worth more than its price. \$1 a year, or 25 cents a number. Readers of the Independent can have this most useful work and our paper both one year for \$2.60, in advance. Try them.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for January is an unusually full and interesting number of this sterling work. It is a matter for congratulation that this standard of excellence in American literature in the department it occupies, gives no uncertain sound on the great question of the FREEDOM OF MEN. It grapples with the subject of this rebellion as a giant takes hold of his adversary, and aims deadly blows upon it. We always find food for thought and facts which add to the store of knowledge in its pages. Regarded abroad as one of the first works of the kind printed in the language, it is only hated at home by the most bigotted class of pro-slavery adherents. It is worthy a place in every household of the Union. \$3 a year. Ticknor & Fields, Boston, Mass.

Army Correspondence.

CANE HILL, Ark., Dec. 11, 1862. FRIEND ROBERTS:—The troops in this Department under command of Gen. Blunt, had a severe and bloody conflict on Sunday last. The enemy to the number of about 30,000 attempted to outflank us on our left, and capture our supply train, and at the same time cut off our retreat.

Gen. Herron was on his way to reinforce us, and early on the morning of the 7th, when near Prairie Grove, about 10 miles south of Fayetteville, was attacked by the rebel forces under Hindman and Marmaduke. Although not entirely prepared for an attack, Gen. Herron soon had his batteries planted, and commenced a heavy and destructive fire upon the enemy's guns, which were masked in the timber. The Wisconsin regiment made a gallant charge upon a battery of five guns, and succeeded in capturing them, but were obliged to leave them on the ground, not having sufficient support to remove them from the field. The enemy then withdrew their artillery some three miles, and they made an attempt, with nearly their whole force, to prevent our division under Gen. Blunt from forming a junction with Gen. Herron. In this, however, they were defeated, and both divisions now made a united effort to drive them from the timber in which their forces were effectually concealed;

but they having much the advantage of ground and cover of the timber, held their position. The firing of small arms on both sides was almost incessant, a perfect storm of bullets falling around our men, who lay flat on the ground, loading and firing from this position.

At one point the enemy attempted to charge upon Rabb's battery, but a few rounds of grape and canister, and a well directed fire from the 11th, caused them to retreat hastily to the timber.

The 2nd, 10th, 11th and 13th Kansas were exposed to the hottest fire, and have lost more men, for the length of time engaged, than any other regiments. The firing on both sides was kept up without intermission from 8 o'clock A. M. until dark, when the enemy ceased firing and retired from the field. The loss of the enemy it is impossible at present to ascertain, but is reported to be from 2,000 to 2,500 killed and seriously wounded. Our loss is 1,200 killed and wounded.

Our forces laid on their arms that night, expecting to renew the fight early the next morning, but a flag of truce was sent, asking for a cessation of hostilities for 12 hours, which was granted, during which time the enemy made good their escape across the Boston Mountains.

Their surgeons have been engaged for three days in burying their dead, and numbers of their wounded are dying every day.

Over 300 of those whose wounds were slight have been brought to this place, on account of there being no houses elsewhere of sufficient size to accommodate them, except those already in use as hospitals.

The rebels appear to be well supplied with comfortable clothing, and some have good guns, but they have nothing to live upon but corn bread and parched corn, for which reason they undoubtedly fought with greater vigor, being stimulated with the hope of capturing our immense supply train, and thus relieving their necessities.

The enemy captured a train of 32 wagons belonging to the 1st Arkansas battalion. Our forces camped for two days on the battle ground, and then moved to Ray's Mill and from thence to our old camp at Cane Hill, where we are ready at any time to encounter the enemy.

Lieut. J. C. Burnett was wounded in the left knee. His wound, though not dangerous, will disable him from active service for some time. Mr. Grigsby, from Grasshopper Falls, was severely wounded in the shoulder. We were under a constant fire from the enemy for three hours. They made a charge with about 2,000 upon part of the 2nd Kansas and our regiment, and we were forced to retreat across an orchard under cover of our batteries. It was at this time, while the men were falling back, that Lieut. Burnett was wounded. He was trying to stop the men from retreating and get them to make a stand, although it was by the order of Col. Ewing that we retreated, he not hearing the command. All the rest of the boys are well.

Yours, Union.

Kansas News.

The Topeka Tribune complains that all hands from a government train camped about a mile from the Capital, visited the city at night, "firing pistols at citizens and committing other devilish acts. We hope that measures will be taken to secure our citizens against such attacks in future." Certainly. Such men are a disgrace to the country.

Hon. H. R. Dutton, says the same paper, has the appointment of Quartermaster of the 8th Kansas, and left on Monday morning for Dixie.

Hon. W. H. Lawrence, Sec. of State elect, was married a few days ago to Miss Sallie Schuyler, daughter of Judge P. C. Schuyler, of Burlington. We wish the Secretary and his lady a happy life.

Our cotemporary, Mr. Weightman, of the Leavenworth Conservative has had the good taste to leave the dismal society of old bachelors and taken the more genial and refining one of matrimony. Long may he wave!

The White Cloud Chief chronicles the death of a boy named Edward W. Whitney of that place, aged ten or twelve years, caused by falling from a horse he was riding. His father O. C. Whitney, of the 7th Kansas, is in Mississippi, and when hurt the boy was on his way to the post office with a letter which he had written to his father, to whom the sad death of his son, so unexpectedly, will be a terrible blow.

At a meeting recently held in Leavenworth, Gen. Blunt was recommended for a Major General. Blunt has certainly shown good qualities as an officer, and if merit is the stepping-stone of promotion, he should go up. Apropos of this, it is reported that the Kansas delegation in Congress have united in making the same request of the President and Sec.

of War. Also, that Colonels Lee and Deitler be promoted to Brigadier General.

The Conservative of the 28th ult. reports the Missouri river as slowly rising.

In that portion of the 12th (colored) regiment at Paola, 20 cases of the small pox are reported.

We notice that the young men of Leavenworth have formed a Literary Association to which they have given the name of "The Leavenworth Literary Club." We are happy to notice that the example of our own town is followed by other communities.

Judge James McCahon has purchased the New Castle Coal Lands, and secured a title to the same. These lands have thus fallen into good hands, and we wish the Judge success in this possession.

Gen. Blunt is expected to arrive at Leavenworth by this time. We hope he is not leaving his post at a dangerous hour.

It is reported that a man from the country was robbed in Leavenworth on Christmas eve of \$1,100 in cash, by some of the sharps of that city.

The Secretary of War has authorized the Indian Bureau to raise two additional regiments of Indians to guard the Southern Frontier of Kansas.

The N. Y. Tribune of the 23d says: "Senator Lane's bill to extinguish the title of the Indians to their Lands in Kansas, has been approved by the Indian officer. Measures will be immediately taken to provide homes for these people and to remove them from Kansas."

Sad Affair.

The Topeka Tribune says that a boy named James Mitchell, living with Wm. Hewins, on Mission creek, came to a sad and violent death on Wednesday, during the absence of the family, in the act of taking a horse to water. He had fastened the rope around his wrist to lead the horse. This was about noon. The family returned at night and found the bruised and mangled body. The wrist joint was dislocated, the arm broken in two places, the neck broken and the body much injured, apparently having been dragged about the prairie; some of the time at great speed, for several hours.

Gen. Blunt.

After the battle of Prairie Grove, Col. Cloud wrote as follows, Dec. 13th, to a friend:

"We have had a battle with Hindman, of which you have heard. My brigade was first in the fight, and did its duty. All of the wounds, of my regiment, the Second, were in the front of the body. I am proud of my success in whipping my part of the enemy, and losing few men."

Of all the officers in the West, Gen. Blunt has rendered himself the most popular by reason of his courage and success. When in interview with Hindman, the question of future operations was presented. Gen. Blunt promptly proposed to fight in thirty minutes. This has made him equal to old Rough and ready.

I have now the advance, being only about forty-five miles from Ft. Smith, and my spies and scouts this hour report Hindman moving with his whole army down the river south-east of Van Buren. I think this last battle the most decisive of the war upon this side of the Mississippi."

News of the Week.

The rebels are still advancing in Mississippi and Tennessee. They have retaken all the ground lost on the other side of the Tallahatchee river, and Gen. Grant is reported to have retired across that stream.

Fremont is ordered to the west, and report says he is to command the Expedition down the Mississippi. We hope this is true, or rather, that he is appointed to the command of the Department of the West, including the whole of the country on both sides of the Mississippi river.

Burnside assumes the responsibility of making the recent attack on the enemy back of Frederickburg, and lays the blame of ill-success to the tardiness with which the crops of engineers prepared the pontoon bridges across the river.

Van Dorn is reported to have made a dash into Corinth with 5000 cavalry, and holds the place.

John Morgan has made another raid into Kentucky, and Louisville is in a panic. Kentucky needs another scouring to drive treason from the bosom of her professed Union population.

Just now the rebels at all points, except here in the far west, appear to be making headway or holding their own.

The rebel general Stuart made one of his daring raids in the rear of Burnside's army on the 27th, and committed considerable devastation. The exact amount of damage and loss inflicted is not yet known or reported. We need a general that can prevent such raids, and we must have one.

The soldiers in Burnside's army are building huts for winter quarters.

The snow fell in Main recently to the depth of 15 inches, and the weather was reported very cold.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 27.

Thirty-eight condemned Indians were hung at Mankato at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The gallows was so constructed that all fell at once.

The rebel pirate Alabama recently captured the steamer Ariel, took all the valuables, and was about to burn the vessel when the Captain expostulated, and said the helpless women and children on board must perish if they were left on any of the islands. Semmes, the pirate captain, then consented to let the vessel proceed by Capt. Jones of the Ariel entering into bonds to pay \$228,000 thirty days after the acknowledgement of the Southern Confederacy.

Gen. Banks is reported at New Orleans. The rebels, presuming he will not be as severe as Butler, have become bolder, and gotten together in the streets with considerable impudence. One of them is reported to have sent a challenge to Gen. Butler as he was about leaving, which the General put in his pocket, and sent word to the fellow to come on and meet him in the street if he wanted to fight. He didn't come. We hope Banks will show them his teeth.

The French army in Mexico is represented to be in a very critical condition for want of supplies. They have been getting provisions from this country, and the Mexican minister at Washington strongly protested against permitting such traffic. It is feared evil consequences may grow out of the difficulty.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 28.

John Morgan, with 2,800 men attacked Lieut. Col. Smith, at Elizabethtown, yesterday, commanding 2,500 men. After a severe fight, our forces retired to the court house and buildings near it. Losses are not stated, and result not known.

The Latest.

The rebels have ceased to make progress in their advance movements in Tennessee and Mississippi, notwithstanding Jeff Davis in person has been there to encourage them and direct their movements. Our forces appear to be steadily holding their own, and concentrating for the attack of Vicksburg.

Morgan has met a pretty rough reception in Kentucky, been worsted in one or two skirmishes, and is now on the retreat.

Rosecrans is said to have drubbed the rebels in two or three skirmishes right handsomely.

Poster, in North Carolina, has handled the minions of Jeff Davis without gloves—took 20 guns from them and disabled 17 more. Good.

The riad of Stuart in the rear of Burnside did not pay. He lost more than he gained.

It is announced that the rebels have crossed into Maryland in the vicinity of the Point of Rocks, for purposes of plunder and devastation. It is presumed they have an eye to the destruction of the bridge across the Monocacy.

Rumor assigns Gen. Butler Mr. Stanton's place in the Cabinet, and the command of the army to Fremont. We hope for the good of the nation that this last feature of the rumor is true. We are anxious to see in command of the army whom rebels and their sympathizers fear above all others—one whose movements will not be checked and prove failures for lack of pontoon bridges, but who has the genius in himself to make amends or substitutes for such vexatious delays on the part of red tape management—the man in short who can accomplish impossibilities, his enemies themselves being judges.

BLUNT HAS ANOTHER FIGHT.—The Telegraph informs us that on the 27th Generals Blunt and Herron set out from their respective encampments with 6,000 men in light marching orders, one-third of whom were cavalry, the rest infantry, with light artillery. They crossed Boston mountain by hitching 12 horses to each cannon, and 12 mules to each wagon. This difficult feat accomplished, the two columns formed a junction at Lee's Creek, south of the mountains, and taking the cavalry, with orders for the infantry to come on as fast as possible, the two generals started for Van Buren. At Dripping Springs two regiments of rebel cavalry were met and routed, 7 of them killed and many wounded. The flying foe were followed to Van Buren, where a bold charge was led by the two generals in person, resulting in a complete victory. The rebel cavalry crowded on board some steamers and escaped across the river. The fruits of this bold and successful movement are two fine steamers taken on the spot, one destroyed, and others on the opposite side that must fall into our hands or be destroyed; over 100 prisoners, one of whom was Hindman's express messenger; large quantities of corn, an extensive lot of camp equipment, and all the rebel stores. This will do.

THE INDEPENDENT.

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Special Notices.

RELIGIOUS.

M. F. CROOK.—There will be Religious Services in the M. E. Church in Oskaloosa on Sundays as follows:

Preaching at 10 o'clock, A. M., by the following persons:
Sunday, Nov. 30th, Rev. J. Boncher.
Dec. 7th, " N. W. Taylor.
" 14th, " J. W. Roberts.
" 21st, " D. Dickinson.
" 28th, " J. Boncher.
Jan. 4th, " N. W. Taylor.
" 11th, " J. W. Roberts.
" 18th, " D. Dickinson.
" 25th, " J. Boncher.
Feb. 1st, " N. W. Taylor.
" 8th, " J. W. Roberts.
" 15th, " D. Dickinson.
" 22nd, " J. Boncher.
March 1st, " D. Dickinson.

March 5th, at 7 P. M., the exercises of the Ministerial Association will commence.

March 7th & 8th Fourth Quarterly Meeting, preaching by Rev. L. D. Price and others. Sunday School and Bible Class at 9 A. M. Preaching at 10 o'clock, and at 7 P. M. Class Meeting after the morning preaching, and at 2 P. M.

Citizens and strangers are respectfully invited to attend.

D. DICKINSON, Pastor.

Progress or Retrogression is the Device of the Day.

This will be perceived the best by calling at Mr. S. M. Rothchild's store, in Leavenworth, who keeps a large and nice assortment, at wholesale and retail, of MILLINERY AND STRAW GOODS, HOSIERY, GLOVES, HOOP SKIRTS, all kinds of NOTIONS, FANCY GOODS, Willow Ware, Children's Carriages, and GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

He is also going to keep DRY GOODS, by next fall, for which purpose he is enlarging his store, and fitting it up in the latest New York style. It is therefore to the interest of all, especially Merchants and Milliners, to call at his establishment, 711 Third Street, and buy their wares, where they will surely find the best and greatest assortment, the lowest prices, and most prompt attendance in the Western country.

Important Facts.—Constant writing for six months is done cheaper with Gold Pen than with Steel Pen; therefore, it is economy to use Gold Pens. The Gold Pen remains unchanged by years of continued use, while the Steel Pen is ever changing by corrosion and wear; therefore, perfect uniformity of writing is obtained only by the use of the Gold Pen.

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See "The Pen is mightier than the Sword," in another column.

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